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# The Red Marigold



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## Chapter 1 by Riri

I wander in my backyard where the fields lay.

"Be back in an hour, Grace!" My mother yells after me, even though she knows I won't be back for a while.

I grab my lone Katana, its partner lost in the Forgotten. That is what the Block calls the woods. It is illegal to enter but it's too tempting. And, it is the only way to keep my family alive.

My brother has never been exposed to the real world. He can't do anything yet. My mother is always depressed every since she re-married to a Block sex-machine.

The Block is our government, and I hate it's guts. Especially my step-father.

Of course, their is me. The only sane on of the house.

I enter to find my normal spot atop a grassy hill. I have never been far since the Incident but I always find enough animals this close to the edge.

I wrap my hands around the burl of the handle, the weight of the sharpened blade.

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It took me forever to afford the materials I needed. More than money, I had to enter the Dwells, a black market where I could find what I needed for my story.

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I shake the unruly thought out of my mind. I focus on my prey. I notice a bird about fifteen feet up.

It is a blue jay, something my brother would love to consume. I smile at the thought until I see another color other than the blue and orange array. It holds a marigold.

A blood-red marigold.

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